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Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Rural Communities to Benefit From Lusushwane Bulk Water Supply Project

10 April 2017

The Minister of Water and Sanitation, Nomvula Mokonyane accompanied by the Executive Mayors of Gert Sibande District and Chief Albert Luthuli Local municipalities, Councillors Muzi Chirwa and Dan Nkosi did a sod turning to mark the beginning of the Lusushwane Bulk Water Supply Project Phase 2 at Bettysgoed village on Friday, 07 April 2017. The project is meant to ensure that the rural communities close to the Oshoek border with Swaziland have access to reliable supply of clean potable water.

In her address, Minister Mokonyane referred to the Presidential Summit on Local Government that sat on Thursday 06 April, with particular emphasis on the Back to Basics programme, whilst ensuring that the ideals of the National Development Plan (NDP), Vision 2030 becomes a reality.

Minister Mokonyane also said, "As government, all the work that we do must promote and sustain the dignity and develop the lives of women, girl-children, and more so the youth, particularly Africans who were always at the tail-end of the services value chain in the past. We are here because we believe that water is life. God gives us water through rain and we must purify the water to make it fit for human consumption. This requires money which calls for people to pay for the water above the free water threshold. Let us save water and ensure that we use the available water in an efficient manner."

She also pleaded and encouraged the community to take care of the water infrastructure and prevent the vandalism of service delivery infrastructure. He also encouraged the municipalities to budget for the operations and maintenance of the scheme.

"This project gives us hope that one day our water problems will finally be over and we will have a reliable supply of water in our area. We are looking forward to the day when the problem is finished and we no longer get water on certain days. We are looking forward to the



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time when we have access to water supply every day”, said Bettysgoed resident Sibongile Khumalo.

On completion, the project will benefit the communities of Bettysgoed, Smitsfield, Oshoek, Lochiel, Robinsdale, Aakomst, Pampon, Hartbeeskop and Houtbosch with a reliable water supply.

Themba Khoza